

Twentieth Anniversary of Ninth Street Christian Church to Be Observed by Members Today

Special Services to Be Held in Commemoration of the Event—Work Established Under Direction of Rev. Dr. Frederick D. Power of Vermont Avenue Church.

MEMBERS of various Christian churches of the city are deeply interested in the twentieth anniversary services to be held in the Ninth Street Christian Church today at 11 o'clock. The pastor, Rev. George A. Miller, will deliver a sermon, in which he will tell of the work which has been accomplished by the congregation during the past years. The choir of the church will render a special musical program. The congregation was formed in 1888 by Rev. Frederick D. Power, co-pastor of the Vermont Avenue Christian Church, and began its first services in Old Fellows' Hall, 5th street northeast. During the same year the lot upon which the present church now stands, at 9th and D streets northeast, was purchased. During the latter part of 1890 and the first part of 1891 a chapel costing \$2,000 was constructed on the lot. The first service of the church was held in this building April 5, 1891. A church was organized at this time with 127 members, sixteen of whom were from the mother church. The first officers were: E. L. Hughes, P. S. Steele, C. A. Hughes, C. B. J. A. Scott and W. R. McCurdy. The last two are still members of the official board, and have been constantly for the twenty years.

The church has grown from this small beginning until now it has a membership of 1,001 resident members. On the morning of the organization of the church there were eighty-three present in the Sunday school. The present enrollment of the school, including all departments, is more than 1,000, with an average attendance for the last two months of 614.

Rev. E. L. Bagby was the first pastor and remained with the church for more than fifteen years. He did a great work in the eastern part of the city. It was pointed out, and was greatly loved by all who knew him. In 1898 the present church building was constructed at a cost of \$20,000.

October 1, 1907, Mr. Bagby left the church to become pastor of the Vermont Avenue church. Rev. George A. Miller, the present pastor, was called to the church in 1907. He has labored with the congregation. The church has continued its wonderful growth and prosperity. During the four years and three months of the present pastorate, 476 have united with the congregation, and the building debt has been reduced from \$15,000 to \$6,500, besides nearly \$2,000 in repairs has been put on the church building. The church is in a prosperous condition, and it is averred begins the twenty-first year with the brightest possible prospects.

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